

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING MAJOR AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS TO INCLUDE IGNITION
12 INTERLOCK DEVICES ON ALL NEW VEHICLES.

13
14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of transportation cites
15 alcohol involvement in forty percent of all fatal traffic
16 accidents that occur in the state, making alcohol-related
17 traffic deaths the single largest component of all traffic
18 fatalities; and

19 WHEREAS, according to mothers against drunk driving,
20 during a typical prom weekend in 2005, two hundred ninety young
21 adults ages fifteen to twenty were killed in alcohol-related
22 crashes in the United States, and one hundred ninety-eight of
23 those deaths involved an impaired driver; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico has seen a significant reduction in
25 the number of alcohol-related crashes since requiring that

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1 ignition interlock devices be installed on the vehicles of all
2 first-time drunk driving offenders; and

3 WHEREAS, the number of alcohol-related crashes declined
4 thirty percent from 2002 to 2006, and the recidivism rate of
5 New Mexico drivers after a DWI conviction dropped thirty
6 percent since 2005, when the Ignition Interlock Licensing Act
7 was enacted; and

8 WHEREAS, alcohol-related fatalities have dropped twenty-
9 two percent over the past five years in New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, installing ignition interlock devices on all new
11 vehicles would significantly reduce the number of alcohol-
12 related crashes, injuries and fatalities in the United States;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, despite the strides made by the state to protect
15 its citizens from drunk drivers, New Mexico has still been
16 plagued by tragedy and devastation to New Mexico families that
17 can never be repaired; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2006, five members of the same family were
19 killed by a drunk driver who had multiple DWI convictions in
20 Colorado and who was traveling the wrong way on interstate 25;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, had that driver been convicted in New Mexico, he
23 would have had an ignition interlock device installed on his
24 vehicle and that tragedy might have been avoided; and

25 WHEREAS, the cost of installing an ignition interlock

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1 device will only add a few hundred dollars to the price of a
2 new vehicle;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that automobile manufacturers be requested
5 to install ignition interlock devices on all new vehicles to
6 ensure the safety of all New Mexico citizens; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state policymakers continue to
8 explore emerging technology that may help New Mexicans avoid
9 further DWI tragedy; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the major automobile manufacturers, the
12 governor's office, the department of public safety and the DWI
13 czar.